Driven from Duty

Captains Quarters

Ulysses S. Grant was the commanding general of the Union forces during the Civil War and later served two terms as President of the United States. He was stationed at Fort Humboldt for 4-5 months and may have lived in one of the captains quarters. Life here was boring for the young, energetic officer. He missed his family in Missouri and felt that his Army career was at a standstill. In the summer of 1854, Grant was asked to resign by the Fort's commander, Lt.Col. Robert Buchannon, or face a court martial for a possible charge of being "drunk on duty." Buchannon and Grant had served together before and were known to be bitter rivals. This was just one of the incidents that led to the myth of Grant being a hard drinking man. He resigned and went home to try his hand at farming until 1861 when the Civil War called him back to duty.

